

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 145699
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JHGLENN:MEG
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CVIS, CGEN

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS; DIVIDED FAMILIES

1. CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY DCM EDUARD KUKAN MET WITH EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS AT LATTER'S REQUEST ON JUNE 6. CZECHOSLOVAK DESK OFFICER SAT IN. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION.

2. VOSICKY CASE. ANDREWS REVIEWED CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE ISSUANCE OF A SEVEN-DAY VISA TO VOSICKY LAST DECEMBER. HE STRESSED THAT VOSICKY HAD COMMENTED AFTER HIS VISIT THAT HE HAD NOT ENCOUNTERED ANY DIFFICULTIES WHATEVER WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES. ANDREWS SAID THAT WE APPRECIATED CZECHOSLOVAK ASSISTANCE LAST YEAR AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE ONCE AGAIN SINCE VOSICKY'S APPLICATION HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. HE OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW THE CURRENT STATE OF HEALTH OF VOSICKY'S MOTHER, IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT HER HEALTH WAS VERY GOOD JUDGING FROM THE DOCTOR'S SEPTEMBER 1977 STATEMENT THAT SHE SUFFERED FROM CARCINOMA OF THE BLADDER. ANDREWS NOTED THAT VOSICKY HAD WORKED FOR THE CARTER
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 145699

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, HAD A NUMBER OF FRIENDS ON THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF, AND THAT THE WHITE HOUSE HAD REQUESTED US TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY ON

HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. KUKAN SAID THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED THAT VOSICKY HAD BEHAVED HIMSELF THROUGHOUT HIS DECEMBER VISIT AND THEY HAD NO COMPLAINT

ABOUT THIS. HE SAID HE WOULD ASK FOR FAVORABLE RECONSIDERATION OF HIS APPLICATION.

3. VASEK POLAK CASE. ANDREWS ASKED KUKAN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WHICH PART OF LAW 68 POLAK SUPPOSEDLY VIOLATED ON HIS LAST VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE SAID POLAK HAS VISITED CZECHOSLOVAKIA 15 TIMES BETWEEN 1968 AND 1976. ANDREWS WONDERED WHETHER PERHAPS POLAK HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME ACTIONS OF HIS WERE IN VIOLATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK LAW. ANDREWS NOTED THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HAS ASKED US TO RAISE THIS CASE, POLAK BEING A PROMINENT FIGURE IN CALIFORNIA PORSCHE AND RACING CAR CIRCLES. HE ALSO URGED THAT THE GOC FULLY INFORM APPLICANTS FOR VISAS OF CUSTOMS AND CURRENCY REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO FOREIGNERS TRAVELLING WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. KUKAN SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE INTO THE REASONS WHY POLAK HAD BEEN REFUSED A VISA FIVE TIMES SINCE 1976. WE ARE POUCHING TO EMBASSY PRAGUE A COPY OF A RESPONSE WE DRAFTED IN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S NAME TO A LETTER FROM POLAK'S LEGAL COUNSEL IN CALIFORNIA REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING A VISA FOR HIM.

4. DIVIDED FAMILIES. ANDREWS GAVE KUKAN A COPY OF THE DIVIDED FAMILY LIST THE EMBASSY PRESENTED TO THE GOC LAST DECEMBER WITH THE CAVEAT THAT IT IS NO LONGER UP-TO-DATE. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE 15 OUTSTANDING NUCLEAR AND 15 CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 145699

NON-NUCLEAR CASES AS OF JUNE 1. PLEASE NOTIFY EUR/EE PROMPTLY OF THE RESOLUTION OF OLD CASES AND THE INSERTION OF NEW CASES ON THE LIST SO THAT WE MAY ANNOTATE OUR COPY AND KEEP IT UP TO DATE.

5. NORMALIZATION. IN RESPONSE TO ANDREWS' QUESTION ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE NORMALIZATION PROGRAM, KUKAN SAID THAT THE CSSR EMBASSY DOES NOT STRICTLY FOLLOW FORMAL PROCEDURES IN EVERY CASE, DUE TO THE TREMENDOUS BACKLOG OF APPLICATIONS FOR NORMALIZATION. IN MANY CASES, ONCE THE PROCESS HAS BEGUN, THE EMBASSY WILL ISSUE VISAS TO AMERICANS AND REQUEST GOC APPROVAL OF THE TRAVEL OF THEIR CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIVES TO THE US. KUKAN COULD NOT ESTIMATE HOW LONG THE AVERAGE NORMALIZATION CASE TAKES.

6. GABRIEL CASE. KUKAN MENTIONED THE GABRIEL CASE AS AN EXAMPLE OF AN UNRESOLVED DIVIDED FAMILIES CASE. ANDREWS EXPLAINED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT CAN DO NOTHING EXCEPT TO PROVIDE THE COURT WITH INFORMATION AND

ITS POINT OF VIEW. IN OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THE STATE

COURT IS AUTONOMOUS IN A CASE OF THIS TYPE. ANDREWS EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS NO POLITICAL WAY OF REOPENING THE CASE AND THAT A LEGAL PROCEDURE MUST BE USED IF, INDEED, SUCH IS STILL POSSIBLE.

6. BILATERAL RELATIONS. KUKAN, REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR JOHANES' JUNE 5 MEETING WITH EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, (REFTTEL), SAID THAT JOHANES BELIEVES THAT IT IS A MISTAKE TO LINK THE ANNIVERSARY OF 1968 TO IMPROVEMENTS IN RELATIONS. ANDREWS EXPLAINED THAT THE MEMORY OF 1968 MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO DO MANY THINGS. BOTH SIDES ARE STILL BURDENED BY SUSPICIONS, AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAS HAD TO DEAL WITH MANY DIFFICULT ISSUES, LIKE THE PANAMA CANAL. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE ELECTIONS THIS FALL, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 145699

THERE IS A DISPOSITION NOT TO TAKE UP ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE CONTROVERSIAL AND DIFFICULT. VANCE

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